

But can we ever doubt whether creatures, even so base as we, shall be admitted amongst the blessed in Heaven? We must never doubt so far as to exclude or weaken hope; but hope does not exclude fear. We may well be afraid. And yet we must dare to hope. We must by God's grace rise to that height of faith in His almighty mercy which will enable us to cherish the daring hope that, after this time of trial is over, after whatever labor and penance life may have further in store for us, after the purifying pang and wrench of death, after the searching and sanctifying gaze of our Divine Judge, after the Purgatory—long and severe, perhaps, but only Purgatory—which, please God, will follow judgment: then at last even we, poor sinners, cleansed from the stain of forgiven sin and now, O marvelous mercy! made pure enough for the eye of God, shall be admitted to the marriage supper of the Lamb; and there, the veils of sacraments being removed, faith giving way to sight, and hope to fruition, we shall see, possess, adore, and love for ever the Divine Tenant of our Tabernacles, face to face, and heart to heart.

M. RUSSELL, S. J.

THE TABERNACLE

"O God be merciful to me a sinner! I am full of sin and thou art full of mercy. But my fullness is as nothing to Thy fullness—ininitely less than the corolla of the tiniest flower, which one drop of dew can fill to overflowing, compared with all the unfathomable caverns of the deep filled with all the oceans. The one muddy drop of my sinfulness will be lost in the infinite ocean of Thy purity. May the ocean of Thy mercy wash away all the stains of my soul in Thy Precious Blood, "one drop of which can save the whole world from all its guilt," as Thy glorious servant, Thomas Aquinas, often said when kneeling, as I am kneeling now, before Thy Tabernacle."